

General Report Outline

Objectives – (1) How to create and implement a regional plan, (2) What are the critical principles learned from the pilots

Note: Those with primary responsibility for a chapter or section are identified in italics in parentheses.

1. **Introductory material** (*Elaine*) (Should address purpose of the pilots as well as what is wasn't – study on extending water lines, mention of lack of time and funds to conduct a full (including wastewater) regional planning pilot)
 - 1.1. Paul's letter
 - 1.2. Executive Summary
 - 1.3. Rationale for regional approach (Should focus on the benefits of regional planning including economic opportunity, improvement of security for communities and conflict resolution)
2. **What is a regional plan?** (*CORPS*) (Answering three questions: (1) What you should do (method)? (2) Why you should do it (why it matters)? (3) How you can do it (resources)?)
 - 2.1. Defining the study region
 - 2.2. Identifying key stakeholders
 - 2.3. Describing the relationships with adjacent water systems
 - 2.4. Understanding the yield of existing water sources
 - 2.5. Identifying opportunities for more efficient use and management of water sources
 - 2.6. Developing projections of future water demand
 - 2.7. Evaluating the effect of operational adjustments on source yields
 - 2.8. Procedure for review and approval of regional plans in the future (*TWOG*)
3. **General observations that came out of the process** (to be developed in more detail)
 - 3.1. Clean and reliable drinking water is a natural resource vital to the State's economic well-being and the health of its citizens. Therefore, there is a consequent need to manage that resource for the benefit of all its citizens. (*TDEC*)
 - 3.2. A plan that meets the goal of providing a safe and secure water supply exhibits flexibility, water use efficiency, and risk management strategies with appropriate margins of safety. (*CORPS*)

- 3.3. Water supply planning should be part of a broader process of planning for economic and community development that both provides for growth and accounts for its effects on the watershed. Land-use decisions should minimize and mitigate adverse effects of growth and development on water quantity and quality region-wide. (*TACIR*)
- 3.4. Where regional water supply plans have been created according to the guidance provided by the State of Tennessee, permitting agencies and funding agencies should take the plans and the analysis done in their development into consideration when acting on applications from within the region. For example, when the permit requirements require consideration of feasible alternatives and the project proposed by the applicant was among those considered in the planning process, the analysis done in the regional plan is very relevant to the considerations to be made in the permit process. Similarly, a water provider might have reasons to rank alternatives differently from the way it was done in regional plan and bear the cost of a more expensive alternative, but whether public funds should be used for it is a question to be considered by the funding agency. (*TDEC*)
- 3.5. Water supply plans will promote the long-term sustainability of the State's freshwater resources for the protection of all beneficial uses. Sustainable water use will maintain or improve critical ecological processes at the watershed level and protect the rich biodiversity of Tennessee's waters. (*TNC*)
- 3.6. Increasingly complex and interrelated uses of the State's water resources demand that local water supply and drought management plans should closely consider and complement the plans of each community water system within a region, especially within shared watersheds. Integration of these plans will foster meaningful collaboration between participating local, state, and federal water entities as well as bring about cooperative and mutually effective efforts of each water system within a region. (*TDEC*)
- 3.7. Water supply planning starts with a complete understanding of current system properties and performance. This requires timely monitoring and reporting of many routine aspects of resource use and system operation. Regional water-supply plans should address expectations and guidelines for operator-based monitoring and reporting that anticipates future planning needs. (*CORPS*)
- 3.8. Effective planning and management of water-supply systems requires an accurate description of the behavior of natural hydrologic systems and competing demands at regional and larger scales. The data required to support these purposes should be collected and managed using nationally consistent standards and methods. (*USGS*)

3.9. Plans for new water sources and expanding water supply systems must take into consideration that water users have to pay the full price of water production and distribution. This basic principle of sound financial management is well established in Tennessee law and practice. (*TACIR / TAUD*)

3.10. Meeting regional water supply needs requires cooperation among water utilities and a commitment to joint planning. The state should support this process and offer mediation services as necessary to implement regional plans. (*TAUD*)

4. **Recommendations for statewide deployment** (to be developed in more detail)

4.1. Land use planning and economic development should include consideration of water supplies and regional planning.

4.2. State / Federal funding and resources should promote the values of regional planning and financial accountability, especially water use efficiency and conservation.

4.3. The State should evaluate reporting requirements to improve information for planning, enhance transparency and improve financial accountability.

4.4. The State should evaluate long-term monitoring to ensure that appropriate water resource information is available.

4.5. The State should provide ‘oversight or guidance’ of contract terms to improve trust and cooperation among systems.

4.6. The State should support a consistent modeling approach that is understood and shared among utility districts, engineers and state regulators statewide.

5. **Resources** (More detail on resources identified in Chapter 2)